In the Claims:

Please amend as follows the claims attached to the International Preliminary Report On Patentability:

1. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ A preform used for pulling a ~~fibre~~ fiber, comprising a bulk part ~~(41)~~ and a head part ~~(42)~~ and the head part ~~(42)~~ is attached to the bulk part ~~(41)~~, ~~characterised by that~~ wherein the head part ~~(42)~~ comprises a narrower end ~~(42a)~~ and a wider end ~~(42b)~~, and the wider end ~~(42b)~~ of the head part ~~(42)~~ is connected to the bulk part ~~(41)~~, wherein a heat load directed to said preform will be distributed to the cross section of said bulk (41) part in a predetermined manner.

2. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ is at least partly cone shaped.

3. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ comprises amorphous material.

4. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ and said bulk part ~~(41)~~ are made of compatible materials.

5. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 4, wherein

~~characterised by that~~ said bulk part ~~(41)~~ comprises pure or doped quartz and said head part ~~(42)~~ comprises glass.

6. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 4, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said bulk part ~~(41)~~ comprises pure or doped phosphate glass and said head part ~~(42)~~ comprises glass.

7. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 4, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said bulk part ~~(41)~~ comprises pure or doped fluoride glass and said head part ~~(42)~~ comprises glass.

8. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ comprises material increasing the heat absorption.

9. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ and said bulk part ~~(41)~~ are at least partly joined together by process of melting and solidifying.

10. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ and said bulk part ~~(41)~~ are at least partly joined together by a mechanical joint.

11. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein

~~characterised by that~~ cross-section of said head part ~~(42)~~ on the side facing said bulk part ~~(41)~~ is substantially equal to the cross-section of said bulk part ~~(41)~~ and the cross-section of said head part ~~(42)~~ opposite to said bulk ~~(41)~~ part is smaller than said cross-section facing said bulk part ~~(41)~~.

12. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said bulk part ~~(41)~~ comprises at least one non-homogeneous region.

13. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said at least one non-homogeneous region comprises a hole.

14. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said at least one non-homogeneous region comprises an amorphous material with an index of reflection difference than the index of reflection of the main material used in said bulk part.

15. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said at least one non-homogeneous region comprises an amorphous material that is doped with rare earth.

16. (currently amended) A head part for a preform of a fiber, the head part comprising: ~~fibre characterised by that said head part (42) comprises~~ a narrower end ~~(42a)~~ and a wider end ~~(42b)~~, and the wider end ~~(42b)~~ of the head part ~~(42)~~ can be connected to the bulk part ~~(41)~~,

wherein a heat load directed to said preform will be distributed to the cross section of said bulk ~~(41)~~ part in a predetermined manner.

17. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The head part according to claim 16, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ is at least partly cone shaped.

18. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The head part according to claim 16, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ comprises amorphous material.

19. (currently amended) ~~A~~ The head part according to claim 16, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ comprises material increasing the heat absorption.

20. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for manufacturing a ~~fibre~~ fiber from a perform that comprises a bulk part ~~(41)~~ and a head part ~~(42)~~ is attached to the bulk part ~~(41)~~, the method comprising: ~~the steps of~~

heating a preform so that a surface of the preform is at least partly transformed to a form suitable for pulling a ~~fibre~~ fiber and

directing a pulling effect to at least the transformed part of the preform, and

~~characterised by that the method further comprising the step of~~

controlling at least in the beginning of the heating process at least a part of a heat load directed to said preform by a head part ~~(42)~~ comprising a narrower end ~~(42a)~~ and a wider end ~~(42b)~~ wherein the wider end ~~(42b)~~ of the head part is attached to the bulk part ~~(41)~~.

21. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said step of controlling is such that the heat load is more evenly distributed to the cross section of said surface that it would be without said head part ~~(42)~~.

22. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part ~~(42)~~ is at least partly cone shaped.

23. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, further comprising: ~~characterised by that the method further comprise steps of~~ joining at least partly said head part ~~(42)~~ to a bulk part ~~(41)~~ of said preform.

24. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said step of joining precede said step of heating.

25. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said step of joining further comprises steps of melting and solidifying.